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Former Defense Secretary Dick Cheney visits JSC Director George Abbey.

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NASA Photo

STS-87 Mission Specialists Winston Scott and Takao Doi grab the Spartan satellite during a space walk on Nov. 24 after its attitude control systems failed to activate.

Wolf sends greetings to Earth

Mir crew celebrates 'den blagodarenia' on orbit

NASA Astronaut Dave Wolf and his Russian colleagues aboard the Mir Space Station offered holiday greetings to all Americans last week as they prepared to eat turkey and trimmings.

"We want to wish you the happiest Thanksgiving possible," Wolf said in a downlink opportunity that also involved news media questions from his hometown of Indianapolis.

"In the last hour and a half," Wolf said, "we circled the whole Earth, and it dawns on us that there's one thing in particular that all space-faring people notice. Among many different perceptions of space, it is universal that they notice how awesome the great planet Earth is and we see it out the window just to the right, right now. We're going that way at just under 18,000 miles per hour, and it looks like another spaceship flying in formation with us and is a beautiful spaceship. And it dawns on us how careful we have to be with it. So maybe, our Thanksgiving prayer then would be to have such a wonderful Earth to come back to

and that we should all take such good care of our wonderful spaceship Earth."

Mir 24 Commander Anatoly Solovyev also offered Thanksgiving, or *den blagodarenia*, greetings, and Wolf translated those into a wish that everyone should be in the best spirits possible, enjoy meeting with their families and "spend a nice, long time eating and cooking together."



Wolf showed off smoked turkey, freeze-dried mashed potatoes, peas and milk that the crew would enjoy for its Thanksgiving meal.

Mir-24 Flight Engineer Pavel Vinogradov closed out the holiday greetings by wishing "all Americans happiness and a good time at home," Wolf translated.

Wolf and his crewmates also received holiday greetings in a phone call from NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin.

Wolf said he feels as if he has gotten "over the hump" in his four-month stay, and that although he is enjoying his life in orbit he is beginning to look forward to the return home.

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Space walkers' gloved hands grab Spartan

By Kyle Herring

Space Shuttle *Columbia* was scheduled to wrap up its 16-day science mission, which included an unplanned but dramatic retrieval of the Spartan satellite after its failure to activate on the second day of the flight, about 6:23 a.m. CST today.

The unexpected problem with Spartan occurred the day after *Columbia's* mid-afternoon launch on Nov. 19 to start the STS-87 mission, which is the eighth and final flight of the year. The next mission is planned for mid-January when *Endeavour* heads to the Russian Space Station Mir to drop off Andy Thomas and bring home Dave Wolf.

Columbia's mission started with a new "twist" when a second roll maneuver was initiated by the on-board guidance system to allow for earlier communications capability with communications satellites. The roll to heads up was almost transparent to the crew since it occurred virtually out of the Earth's atmosphere about six minutes after the 1:46 p.m. CST launch.

Problems with Spartan began shortly after its deployment when an automatic "pirouette" maneuver to verify its health did not occur just minutes after release from the robot arm. An attempt to regrip the satellite put it into a slight spin that made it impossible to retrieve by any method other than manual capture during a space walk, which coincidentally was already planned on this mission by Mission Specialists Winston Scott and Takao Doi.

The Spartan science team and mission managers are continuing an investigation into why the satellite did not receive the activation command and also why the regrip attempt put the satellite into its slow rotation.

The evening of Nov. 24, Scott and Doi headed out into the payload bay for the modified space walk beginning with the manual capture of Spartan after being placed within reaching distance by Commander Kevin Kregel flying *Columbia*.

Scott reported capture of the satellite at 8:09 p.m. CST as *Columbia* flew over the Pacific Ocean.

"OK, I've got my end," Scott said.

"OK, I've got my end," replied Doi.

"OK, now that we got it, Mr. Doi, let's decide what we are going to do with it," Scott quipped.

The pair wrestled the car-sized Spartan safely into the payload bay, about two hours after the start of the space walk. But it was up to Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, operating the 50-foot-long robot arm, to secure it in its latching mechanisms.

"OK, K.C.'s got it," Kregel said. "You guys can let go."

The space walkers then proceeded with tests of a crane and tools that will make eventually their way to the International Space Station for routine maintenance activity. The tools and techniques evaluated on this and other shuttle flights are designed to ease the burden of work outside the new space complex scheduled to be assembled in space during the next five years starting with

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STS-87



COLUMBIA

'Twas a month before Christmas but gift rules already were out

JSC Chief Counsel Mike Winchell briefed top JSC managers Monday on the importance of being careful about accepting holiday gifts as the season approaches.

Winchell reminded the senior staff members that all employees must follow the guidelines in the NASA Standards of Conduct, framing his comments in the form of a poem, with the meter lifted from "The Night Before Christmas."

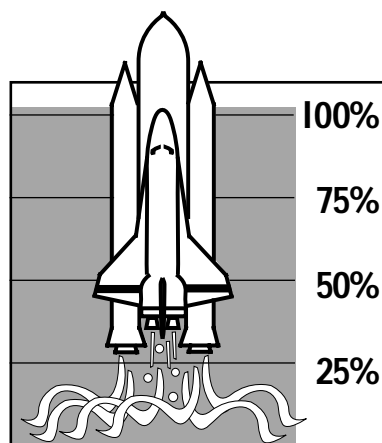
The holiday season—a time for good cheer!
For eggnog, for parties, for friends to be near.
But I must be careful
Lest I accept free
A gift not permitted, no matter how wee.

Part two six three five of the 5CFR
Explains in detail the relevant bar.

It defines the term gift
To mean all things worth money.
That's NBA tickets or jars full of honey.

Some gifts may be taken but some are verboten.
The source is the key—it's the rule that I'm quotin'.
When from me or others
The source seeks some act,
I must find an exception or I could be sacked.

Even others who give can cause problems for me.
If my job prompts the giving—my position, you see.



1997 GOAL: \$480,000



Combined Federal Campaign passes goal by \$10,000

Almost 2,100 JSC employees have contributed \$486,940 to this year's Combined Federal Campaign, and other government employees working at JSC and retirees boosted the total to \$489,084.

The final total is expected to climb above \$490,000. Contributions are almost \$10,000, or 1 percent above this year's goal and last year's giving.

A total of 2,088 of 3,136 eligible employees, or 67 percent, contributed toward the \$480,000 goal. Six organizations—the Human Resources Office, Legal Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Equal Opportunity Programs

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